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Boral Berrima (Medway) Colliery

An update for the community

November 2020

Boral presents this update on works and initiatives taking place at the former Berrima Colliery site at Medway for the information of its valued neighbours and stakeholders.

Connect with the Colliery team

Email: feedback@boral.com.au
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Phone: 0401 894 097 *(Stakeholder Rels)*

CWG meets in September

We remain focused on closing the former Berrima (Medway) Colliery in a safe and sustainable way. Our engagement with the local community remains a crucial part of this process.

Resources such as our dedicated **website** and **Closure Working Group (CWG)** meetings are key to ensuring the local community is informed about the steps being taken as part of the **closure process**.

The most recent meeting of the CWG was held on **18 September** following a significant delay due to the **COVID-19** situation. The meeting discussed recent activities at the site and the current proposed strategy to move toward the permanent closure of the mine.

As always, we'd like to thank all CWG members for volunteering their time. We appreciate their genuine feedback on our journey toward the closure.

During the meeting we updated on **water quality discharge**, the performance of the **bulkheads**, key steps to closure, and our preferred options for long term management of the **mineralised groundwater**.

Bulkhead update

Boral installed seven bulkheads within the workings in 2019 to verify the hydraulic conductivity of the strata within the mine, and to assist in determining final sealing options for closure.

While the bulkheads continue to play an integral part in controlling waters, it is clear they alone will **not** prevent the release of mineralised groundwater.

Management of the mine groundwater will therefore continue to be required.

We continue to manage the mine water discharge through our **underground passive treatment system** (ie **aeration** and **limestone bed**) to ensure discharge water quality is maintained.

Water quality

The quality of the water discharging from the mine continues to be at acceptable levels as defined in our Environmental Protection Licence (EPL 608).

Treated discharge volumes into the **Wingecarribee River** have recently been below the long-term average of **2.6 megalitres per day (ML/day)**. We will continue to monitor this volume to see if it is stabilising as a result of the bulkhead installation.

The return of reasonable **rainfall**, as well as **water transfers** by **Water NSW**, has meant the river has shown an increased **flow rate**.

More information? **www.boral.com.au/medway**.

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We will continue to assess the water quality **up** and **downstream** of the mine discharge point, and assess any changes as we pursue the closure.

However, there are **very little** differences in water quality in the river between the up and downstream locations beyond the initial **mixing zone**.

Key steps to closure

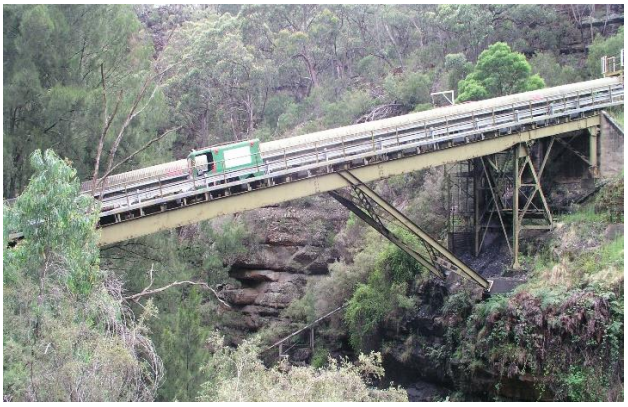
At the CWG meeting, we outlined the steps required to enable closure of the mine. This included preparation of a Stage 2 Closure Mining Operations Plan (MOP) which we're seeking to submit to the NSW Resources Regulator later this month.

The MOP will include our preferred option to sustainably manage the **mine water quality** post-closure and other commitments regarding **surface rehabilitation works**.

Once approved, it is envisaged these activities may take a **couple of years** to complete, with progressive relinquishment of the **mining lease** as various domains are adequately completed.

Pending approval of the Stage 2 MOP, the key elements include (but are not limited to):

- resolving **landowner issues** in the mine area;
- removal and/or making safe of **subsidence monitoring pegs**;
- removal of **monitoring equipment** and rehabilitation of **groundwater monitoring points**;
- sealing of **main drift entrance** to mine;



- installation of **additional bulkheads** and **pumping equipment**;
- installation of **water transfer pipeline** to **pit surface**;
- removal of **ventilation fan** and sealing of **fan entry**;
- sealing of **Loch Catherine** mine entries;
- the construction of a **pit top passive water treatment system**; and
- demolition of remaining **pit top infrastructure** no longer required.

Long term water management

To enable physical enclosure of the mine, and a safer and more viable option for continued treatment of underground waters, Boral proposes to install a passive water treatment system at the Colliery pit top.

The system is being designed upon our **research** and **learnings** over the last couple of years from our **underground passive water treatment system**.

The pit top system will consist of a number of **dams** that will rely on a small amount of **aeration**, **limestone bedding** and **gravity**, enabling the naturally occurring minerals such as **iron** and **manganese** to precipitate out.

The waters would then either be released back into the **Wingecarribee** near the **mine access bridge**, used for productive **irrigation** purposes, or in future be **piped** via the Boral rail easement from the Colliery to the **Cement Works** at New Berrima for **operations**.

The pit top treatment system and any pipeline would be subject to **regulatory approvals** which includes the need for **local consultation**.

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